

REDMOND PARK BOARD

Minutes

January 8, 2004

Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center

I. Call to order

The regular meeting of the Redmond Park Board was called to order by Chair Lori Snodgrass at 7:02 p.m.

Board members present: Lori Snodgrass, Suzanne Querry, Seth Kelsey, David Ladd Sue Stewart; Ann Callister, David Degenstein, Katherine Zak (Youth Advocate)

City staff present: Danny Hopkins, Parks and Recreation Director; Tim Cox; Parks Planning Manager, Tom Trueblood; Recreation Manager, Jean Rice; Park Planning Analyst, Sharon Sato; Recording Secretary.

Welcome to Citizen Guests: 13 guests present

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion for approval of November 6, 2003 Redmond Park Board draft minutes delayed until February 2004 meeting.

III. Items from the Audience

No items.

IV. Additions to the Agenda/Handouts

Municipal Campus Master Plan - Cox handed out a copy of the new city hall architect's (Hewitt Architects) Introduction to the Scope of Work and minutes from the October 20, 2003 meeting from the planning staff for the Municipal Campus Central Park Master Plan. Cox asked that two or three Board members be selected to attend a planning charette for the Campus Master Plan. This meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 21 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (location to be determined). Representatives from the Parks Board, Trails Commission, Arts Commission, Parks and Recreation staff, Public Works staff and planning staff are asked to attend. Mike Paul, City project manager and Hewitt Architects, consultants, will conduct the charette. Consultants and staff will hold an open house to invite the public for ideas and comments.

V. New Business

A. Idlywood Park Public Input and Discussion – Tom Atkins

No official master plan had been done since the City acquired Idylwood Park in the 1980's. This master plan process has been an opportunity to revisit the site and review options to enhance the surrounding neighborhoods. On October 22, 2003, a public meeting was held at Audubon Elementary School to solicit ideas and input on what important concepts neighbors would like to see incorporated in the park. Approximately, 500 meeting notification flyers were sent out to citizens in the area within a 1½-mile radius of the park.

Tom Atkins, project consultant, gave a brief overview of the site analysis, and concepts presented and discussed at the October 22, 2003 public meeting. Atkins noted specific steps in the planning process that would take place before completion of the park plan:

1. Kick-off
2. Site analysis
3. Public Meeting #1- October 22, 2003 – developed alternative concepts
4. Public Meeting #2 – January 8, 2004 – further public input, discussion and input by Park Board members
5. Draft concept presented to public and Park Board members - comments
6. Put comments into a draft plan/document
7. Final meeting – presentation of plan to public and Board
8. Presentation of final document

Park boundaries – West Lake Sammamish, NE 38th Street (north - multi-family housing, residential development), single-family (west and south), Lake Sammamish. The site includes 17 acres, with approximately 3-acres on the west side of West Lake Sammamish Parkway for overflow parking. There are some existing facilities on-site; a residence, parking for approximately 40 vehicles, restroom, beach, and dock. Early in the process an environmental consultant (Adolfson and Associates) proceeded with a site assessment, looking for sensitive habitats and wetlands. The consultant has designated five potential wetlands which will be considered during the planning process – north boundary, shoreline, within the forested area and at the southern part of the property. There are several environmental determinates that will be integrated into the final plan.

The site assessment information is summarized in terms of the various site zones. Seven different onsite zones have been identified:

- Northeast corner – existing parking and residence
- North Lawn Area – 4 to 5 acres of open turf area w/scattered trees
- Idlywood Creek Corridor – riparian vegetation
- South end – dense forest w/wetlands – dense undergrowth of native and non-native plant material
- Beach zone
- Meadow area – lawn area w/some trees
- Forested area

Three pedestrian entry points are identified into the park – south corner, crosswalk/bus stop (corner of 177th) and off of NE 38th.

Atkins presented a chart with program elements as a result of the October 22, 2003 public meeting. Three alternatives, which ranged in differences, with intensity of use and location of the various suggested recreation elements were displayed. Atkins noted that elements from within the three alternative components would result in a draft copy of a mix of suggested elements.

The chart was divided into three alternative columns (Alternative A, B. & C), with a column for existing amenities at the park.

Alternative A – less intensive, or least development

Alternative B – mid intensive, some development

Alternative C – most intensive, most development

Elements:

- Enhanced park arrival experience – improve entry signage, enhanced entry landscape – a sense of arrival
- Park entry off of NE 38th Street – to stay at existing point
- Park entry off of W. Lk. Sammamish Parkway - additional park entry
- Parking within the park – Approximately 40 spaces at the park – remove existing residence to expand existing parking by 55 to total 95 spaces
- Parking in overflow lot – marking spaces to provide more vehicles spaces
- Total parking – varies with alternatives

- Bio-filtration swale and pond associated w/parking – additional parking spaces means more detention basins and bio-filtration –east of parking lot (detention basin) - along northern edge of park (bio-filtration system)
- Car top boat drop-off and pick-up area – close to parking area
- Improved neighborhood gateways – improve signage, increased landscaping, to enforce crossing at crosswalks through signage
- Irrigation and turf improvements – large lawn area – hedge on the north property line (4' to 6 in height)
- Improvements to beach area – more seating and sun area, between beach area grass area – better defined edge (concrete seat wall or logs)
- Expansion of beach area – remove existing dock and move new dock closer to mouth of Idylwood Creek – beach frontage can be expanded 60' to 80'
- Additional picnic opportunities – picnic shelter in north lawn area, additional shelter in forested area on edge of meadow
- Sand volleyball – 2 courts - meadow area – separated from the beach
- Playground – further away from beach – separation from the sand volleyball courts of 60' + some buffer area
- Existing trails – within existing park 3,825 ft of trail – adding trail along water and adding a loop through the forested wetlands along the south part of park, walkway and trail along eastern edge of parking, connecting to existing trail crossing Idylwood Creek
- “Waterwalk” boardwalk – additional fishing access and interpretive opportunities
- Total trails – depending on alternative A, B or C
- Art in the park venue – small picnic shelter for non-amplified performances, small gatherings
- Fun Factory/concession vehicle pad – north lawn and picnic shelter
- Interpretive opportunities – add to more signage to existing and add signage to the south part of the site
- Wildlife habitat enhancement opportunities – treed area and area along creek
- Fishing opportunities – enhanced opportunities with boardwalk
- Removal of existing residence
- Improvements to existing restroom – improve, upgrade
- Expansion of swimming area dock for short term powerboat moorage – expanding existing dock – adding a finger that would provide some access for short term moorage – pick-up or drop-off
- New dock closer to Idylwood Creek for short term powerboat moorage – mouth of Idylwood Creek

- New rowing and paddle club dock and small boathouse – potential location for club – addition dock on the northeast corner of park, covered skiff boathouse
- Expand beach area
- Picnic shelters – one to two additional
- Community Building (meeting room, restroom, day camp facilities) – inclusive in the rowing and paddle club proposal
- Rowing and paddle club building – public meeting facility, restaurants, day camp facilities
- Improved water supply – associated with the rowing club facilities project submission, improved/larger water line to service increased supply demand – from an 8" to a 12" line

Snodgrass reminded the audience that this was the beginning of the public process and plans to this point are conceptual. She encouraged comments, feedback, ideas and e-mails (to date three e-mails have been received).

Idylwood Park Opportunity Plan

Program Elements	Existing	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
Enhanced park arrival experience		Yes	Yes	Yes
Park entry off of NE 38 th Street	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Park entry off of West Lake Sammamish Parkway				Right turn only
Parking in park	40 spaces	95 spaces	95 spaces	95 spaces
Parking in overflow lot	30 spaces	30 spaces	30 spaces	40 spaces
Total parking	70 spaces	125 spaces	125 spaces	135 spaces
Bio-filtration swale and pond associated with parking		Yes	Yes	Yes
Car top boat drop-off and pick-up area			Yes	Yes
Improved neighborhood gateways		Yes	Yes	Yes
Irrigation and turf improvements		Yes	Yes	Yes
Landscape buffer (hedge) along north property line			Yes	Yes
Improvements to beach area		Yes	Yes	Yes
Expansion of beach area				Yes
Additional picnic opportunities		Yes	Yes	Yes
Sand volleyball		Yes	Yes	Yes
Play ground		Yes	Yes	Yes
Existing trails	3825 Linear feet	3825 Linear feet	3825 Linear feet	3825 Linear feet
New trails			1265 Linear feet	1695 Linear feet
"Waterwalk" boardwalk				240 linear feet
Total trails	3825 Linear feet	3825 Linear feet	5090 Linear feet	5760 Linear feet
Art in the parks venue		North lawn picnic shelter	North lawn picnic shelter	North lawn picnic shelter
Fun factory / concession vehicle pad			North lawn picnic shelter	North lawn picnic shelter
Interpretive opportunities		Yes	Yes	Yes
Wildlife habitat enhancement opportunities		Yes	Yes	Yes
Fishing opportunities			Enhanced	Enhanced
Removal of existing residence		Yes	Yes	Yes
Improvements to existing restroom		Yes	Yes	Yes
Expansion of swimming area dock for short term powerboat moorage			Yes	
New dock closer to Idylwood Creek for short term powerboat moorage				Yes
New Rowing & Paddle Club dock and small boat house				Yes
Expand beach area				Yes
Picnic shelters		One	Two	Two
Community Building - Meeting room. Restroom, Day Camp facilities			Yes	Yes
Rowing & Paddle Club Building				Yes
Improved water supply			8" to 12" associated w/meeting facility	8" to 12" associated w/meeting facility
Environmental mitigation			Yes	Yes
Permits required				

Comments from the audience:

- Susan Temple – Bellevue - Large expansive view of lake, stance of beautiful grass, large trees – incredible sense of place. Keeping the sense of quiet and beauty. In favor of current and some proposed activities. Elbow out of existing dock – intrusion. Proposed picnic shelter obstruct view – move to one area to not block view.
- Concern for size of boathouse proposed by rowing club.
- Activity to be located in on area of park
- Suggestion for rowing building in the wooded/forested area
- Concern of size of boat house (community amenities combined)
- Launch house – 20' x 40'
- Steve Issac, Sammamish Rowing Assn. – launch house to be located in an area not obtrusive to view. The small covered building would be used to store safety launches.
- Single finger dock to prevent boats “riding up” on the beach separating powerboats from swimming area. Help congestion.
- Possible regattas in off season
- Not to encourage more power boats
- Too much going on in such a small area
- David Jones – Redmond, Wa. - Supports rowing usage – kayak rentals. No community center at site – draws more people, noise. Dock on north-end, not a good idea – draws kids
- Eric O'Neal, Park User – Room to address motorboat usage for water skiing. Playground is good amenity to add. Would like to encourage to Board members and consultant to go to Gene Coulon Park in Renton to look at their playground equipment setup. Champion Blue Cedar at Idylwood is known largest in the State of Washington.
- Too many amenities in small space – 19 acres.

Snodgrass noted that alternatives A, B & C are based on public input/recommendations and the planning process was in the beginning stages. These recommendations are suggestions and not necessarily what will become part of the park's amenities. The final plan will reflect the best suggestions and will take all environmental issues into consideration.

- Is it necessary for the Rowing Association need two facilities?
- Steve Issac - Marymoor facility is a 40-year boathouse. The existing building is no longer in good condition. Would like to use for single storage a low usage and use the Idlywood facility for higher use - kayaking, rowing.
- The current/existing house on site will be removed due to non-. Current proposal by the rowing club would use the vicinity of that removed building to put in a facility (40'x80' - 2 to 3 stories built on a slope - view from street would be the same as existing house). Concern about Eagles in cottonwood trees where proposed boathouse on the lake would be located.
- Boathouse/Launch house can be located at a different place on site with no cover, as another alternative.
- Covered facility would provide launch security.
- Eliot Sokolow, Redmond -concerns about location of dock - early morning noise, voices, engines - in favor of some rowing activities at park. More park noise and headlight view since thinning and removal of some of the native plants around the creek rehab (blackberry bushes).
- Michelle Meston, Redmond - Safety concerns, swimming near dock. High motorboat usage during the weekends and warmer months.
- Jason Newbauer, Redmond - Mark boat/person drop off interior to the parking area, current drop-off on street is dangerous and tight. Existing problems on the northwest corner of the lake, between the rowing and the water skiers. Fix current situation at Marymoor, more natural entry to lake.
- Margaret Ellsworth, Redmond - Motorboats ski off of the paddle dock.
- Typical hours of operation for rowing - Monday thru Friday, 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. - Weekends, 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Evening session during spring and summer months - 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Wetlands concerns - enough open spaces to preserve wetlands.
- Policing concerns - sometimes difficult to get patrons out of the park at closing. Dock might be a concern or liability - tendency to draw younger people.

Snodgrass thanks those who shared their comments and thoughts. Further discussion will take place at the regularly scheduled meeting in February. Snodgrass invited further comments via e-mail or mail.

Snodgrass asked for the consultant's spreadsheet, and wetland and site elevation drawings for Board members.

Kelsey added he would like the Board to receive projected increase in the use of the park, reached through the alternatives.

Zak suggested that in order to reach more people with information an article in the city's FOCUS publication on the final alternatives would be a good means to reach a wide spread of citizens.

B. Scoreboard Donation - Hopkins

Hopkins gave a brief summary of the Little League Scoreboard Donation.

Snodgrass asked Parks staff forward all Council information – agenda item, site map, scoreboard location on site to Board members.

Stewart noted that this issue had been in progress for nearly one year. Hopkins noted that an ordinance was involved due to issue of installation process

Eric O'Neal – Park Operations – Project Manager, noted that the scoreboards would be the same size as existing scoreboards on site and with the backside panels used for advertising. Currently the scoreboards are not installed; installation costs are slightly higher than the proposed donation agreed upon.

Staff will keep the Board updated on the project.

Snodgrass also asked staff to, in the future, to be more diligent in giving a more comfortable lead time to review projects that impact parks. Degenstein noted that this was a sensitive issue and in the future prior notice would be greatly appreciated.

C. Derby Days and Fourth of July 2004 Update – Trueblood

Trueblood reported that staff would be going before City Council on January 13th to report on special events and the need to allocate \$85,000 more to maintain these projects. Derby Days will move back to the ORSCC site for two-years on a temporary basis due to the unavailability of the City Hall Campus. To improve the temporary site, Police will open up 80th & 83rd streets, blocking off traffic to accommodate more vendor/participant/public usage.

The parade route will begin at the Redmond Medical Center, across from the skate park, up Redmond Way, up to 70th, with the bike race going down Redmond Way and out to 168th, by Anderson Park. Residents will be informed of the street closures well in advance of the event.

Trueblood reported that the City would be working with King County on the Fourth of July event. The event will be expanded to allow more "carnival-like" participation – more games, picnicking, and booths during the day with a larger fireworks display in the evening. King County will be providing the daytime amenities, while the City would be providing an expanded fireworks show. Details are still under negotiations.

Kelsey asked about a Parks Board booth during the Derby Days event. Snodgrass suggested a non-staffed booth with information about the proposed Park Bond. This subject will be further discussed as the event approaches.

Derby Days will be held on July 10, 2004.

D. Fees & Charges Discussion – Trueblood

Trueblood reported that some scheduled time was needed to discuss this subject and that more public notification would be needed. Further discussion will take place at February's Board meeting.

Fees will reflect marketing increase, some reflect standardizing similar types of things, making it easier for staff to administer and for the community to understand. Trueblood noted that continual rising costs for administering recreational activities is a driving force – scheduling functions for new facilities – more complex. Picnic shelters will be charged at market value; currently Redmond's rates are below market value. Not all fees will be increased. Trueblood noted that facility demand might also factor the determined rate.

Kelsey asked for feedback on who uses the Farrell McWhirter picnic area, barbeque facilities, and area. Trueblood will follow up with information to Kelsey.

Query asked if there were frequent requests for senior discounts. Trueblood noted that there are some requests, but not too many.

Kelsey inquired why senior center rental fees would not rise. Trueblood responded that rentability in that case was an issue.

Trueblood invited the Board to e-mail him with any questions. More information and more discussion will take place at the next Board meeting.

VI. Old Business

Coast Guard Park Naming - Jean Rice

Approximately 800 park naming flyers were sent out to residents within a 3-mile radius of the park. Three names were submitted - Bear Creek Park, Habitat Park, Keller Park. Kelsey suggested Coast Guard Park. Querry suggested placing a historical marker at the site if Coast Guard Park was chosen. Stewart stated she would like to see a name that reflected a person that has contributed to Redmond's history, asking the Redmond Historical Society for their input.

Snodgrass suggested to "recast", sending information out to the Trails and Arts Commissions, as well as the Historical Society. Further discussion will take place at the Park Board's February meeting.

E. Meitzer Naming Proposal - Trueblood (Handout)

Trueblood reported that Frances Meitzer has requested, in writing, that the Parks & Recreation Dept. consider naming the theatre at the Senior Center in honor of her husband, Fred Meitzer. Mrs. Meitzer has also asked the Parks & Recreation Dept. to consider waiving the 2-year waiting period (City Resolution #874) to name the theater after her husband.

Fred Meitzer, in the past, served on the Redmond City Council and was an art teacher. He was an advocate for making improvements at the Sr. Center in the auditorium/theater area. Due to Mr. Meitzer's support, the Council increased the budget by \$100,000 for that purpose. Mr. Meitzer also directed the first play at the Center.

Trueblood stated that staff is in favor of this, however, staff is waiting for some feedback from Senior Center participants.

The Park Board is being asked to take action on this naming request. More information may be distributed at the next meeting contingent on input from Senior Center participants. Perhaps Mrs. Meitzer would come before the Board at an appropriate time. The 2-year waiting period needs to be considered by City Council. In the event the 2-year waiting period is not granted, staff could possibly begin working on the project anyway. In the event this was approved, a plaque would be placed in the auditorium area to honor Mr. Meitzer.

City Hall Charette – Cox

A planning Charette for the City Hall Campus is planned on Wednesday, January 21, 2004, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., at the Redmond Technical Center. Parks staff is asking for two representatives from each committee – two each from the Parks Board, Trails Commission and Arts Commission.

Querry asked staff to reiterate the purpose of the meeting and the Park Board's role. The Board is asked for their input on the proposed "urban park" component for the new City Hall Building.

Members requested that Snodgrass, Querry, Kelsey and Zak represent the Board. Park Board members are asked to e-mail Snodgrass with any ideas, questions, and concerns. Reporting and follow-up will be brought up at the next month's Board meeting.

VII. Reports

Project Updates – Cox

Park & Recreation Policies 5- Year Comprehensive Plan Updates - Cox

Policies were outlined in October and November Board packets. Snodgrass noted that a joint meeting, between the Park Board and Planning Commission and Planning staff, was suggested by the Planning Commission. Cox will follow-up on setting up this meeting and report back to the Board. The Planning staff is focusing on policy modification (approximately 30 pages out of the Comprehensive Plan). Planning is looking into spring 2004 as a target date to get policies to City Council for consideration.

Kelsey inquired why senior center rental fees would not rise. Trueblood responded that rentability in that case was an issue.

Trueblood invited the Board to e-mail him with any questions. More information and more discussion will take place at the next Board meeting.

Parking Lot at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center – Trueblood

Weather permitting, parking lot striping would be done and the parking lot construction would be finalized.

Disc Golf – Rice

Disc golf baskets were being put into place. The Cricket field will be slightly modified from original plan and "t" boxes will be put in after the weather improves.

Fire Station Art Plaza – Hopkins

Platform is being formed out, waiting for weather to improve to put in the seating wall and paving block. Art piece should be done within the next two weeks. Staff will notify Board on dedication date.

Perrigo Park – Cox

An agreement with Union Hill Water has been finalized. Work to proceed as weather improves – couple of months.

Grass Lawn Park – Cox

Ten more working days to finalize, weather dependant. Kelsey reported someone clearing icy snow off the artificial turf and was concerned that this would or had damaged the material. Hopkins reported that no damage was done, however, in the future precautions would be taken to lock down the field to keep any damage from occurring.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by: Seth Kelsey

Second by: David Ladd

Motion carried: 6-0 unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

By: _____
Suzanne Querry, Vice Chair

_____ Date

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Sharon Sato

Next Regular Meeting

February 5, 2004

7:00 p.m.

Location: Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center